

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for the treatment of ~~physical dependence and/or~~ one or more withdrawal symptoms caused by the discontinuation of the use of at least one psychostimulant agent in a mammal, which comprises administering to the mammal an effective amount of a selective alpha2-adrenoceptor antagonist.
2. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, which comprises treating the mammal for ~~existing dependence and/or~~ one or more existing withdrawal symptoms.
3. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, which comprises treating the mammal to prevent ~~the development of dependence and/or~~ one or more withdrawal symptoms.
4. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, which comprises discontinuing the use of the at least one psychostimulant upon administration of the at least one alpha2-adrenoceptor.
5. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, which comprises gradually reducing the use of the at least one psychostimulant ultimately to discontinuation while administering the at least one alpha2-adrenoceptor.
6. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the mammal is a human.
7. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, which comprises treating one or more withdrawal symptoms, wherein at least one withdrawal symptom is

~~depression, anxiety, hyperphagia, continued sleepiness, anhedonia, sexual dysfunction, dysphoria, lethargy, general fatigue, shivering, shaking, restlessness, headache, inability to concentrate, decreased sensory sensitivity or apathy.~~

8. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one psychostimulant agent is amphetamine, ~~dextroamphetamine, methamphetamine or other β -phenylisopropylamine derivative.~~

9. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one psychostimulant agent is nicotine, cocaine, ecstasy, phencyclidine, phenmetrazine, methylphenidate, diethylpropion, pemoline, mazindol, (-) cathione or fenfluramine.

10. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the alpha2-adrenoceptor antagonist is atipamezole or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

11. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the alpha2-adrenoceptor antagonist is efaroxan or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

12. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one alpha2-adrenoceptor antagonist is 4-(2-ethyl-5-fluoro-2,3-dihydro-1H-inden-2-yl)-1H-imidazole or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

13. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 1, which comprises further administering one or more antidepressants, antipsychotics or anxiolytic agents.

14. (Withdrawn) A method for the prevention of relapse after withdrawal from the use of at least one psychostimulant agent in a mammal, which comprises administering to the mammal an effective amount of a selective alpha2-adrenoceptor antagonist.

15. (Withdrawn) A method for the treatment of physical dependence and/or one or more withdrawal symptoms caused by the discontinuation of the use of at least one compound that enhances dopamine release and/or inhibits dopamine uptake from the synaptic cleft in the central nervous system, which comprises administering to the mammal an effective amount of a selective alpha2-adrenoceptor antagonist.